

## CLAIMS

I Claim:

Claim 1 – An orthopedic device, comprising, in combination:

*Sub  
A4*

a threaded shaft said shaft having one terminus with rotational means,  
a cup having a rotational means receiving area dimensioned to allow rotation  
of said threaded shaft about said one terminus,  
said cup having a transverse slot,  
a rod passing through said slot,  
and means to fix said rod and said threaded shaft into a fixed position relative  
to said cup.

Claim 2 - The device of claim 1 wherein said threaded shaft has first and second  
thread patterns thereon.

Claim 3 - A method for supporting a skeletal structure, the steps including:

deploying fasteners with support cups;  
deploying a support rod;  
orienting the cups so the rod abuts the fasteners;  
and fixing the rod and fasteners together.

Claim 4 - The device of claim 2 wherein said threaded shaft first and second thread  
patterns have differing thread pitch, such that said second thread pattern has finer threads  
than said first thread pattern.

Claim 5 - The device of claim 4 wherein said thread patterns have crests which are  
axially offset from their respective roots, inducing a radially inward directed force.

~~Claim 6~~ - The device of claim 5 wherein said first and second thread crests face each other inducing compressive free axially.

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